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Clinton Lanes Pins Silenced

By Eddie Fisher
Of The Dispatch Staff

Bobby pins will replace bowling pins at 3520 N. High St.

The address has been that of Clinton Lanes for the past 22 years, but on Sunday it will become the expanded storeroom of Riteway Barber and Beauty Supply House.

Walter "Bud" Davidson and his wife Marie, co-owners of the 10-bed bowling house in Clintonville, learned a few months ago that their lease would not be renewed and that the owner of the building, Riteway's Bill Barnett, was taking it over to expand his own business interests.

IT WAS A heart-aching occasion for the Davidsons. Their relationship with bowlers at Clinton over the past 13 years has become one of mutual admiration.

"The Davidsons are such wonderful people," said a member of one of the church leagues at Clinton. "They developed a warm, friendly atmosphere all these years. It was like a community within a community."

The building lease expired last October, and the Davidsons first heard word of Clinton Lanes' fate the week before Thanksgiving.

THE BOWLING house opened in 1956 when it was owned and operated by John Morgan. The Davidsons and son Robert, now 42, bought Clinton from Morgan 13 years ago. Robert, at the time, ran the desk at Morgan's Fiesta Lanes. His dad was a Cleveland carpenter.

A notable feature at Clinton Lanes was the absence of a saloon area.

"This is a dry precinct," Davidson explained. "Besides, we didn't want a bar. For one thing, we had church leagues here."

The Davidsons' strongest attachment was to the Capital City Blind League of 32 men and women. "Saying goodbye to those people was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do," Davidson said, adding that the league has transferred to College Inn.

ORGANIZED BOWLING ended at Clinton on Feb. 6 when the Achbar Grotto men's league finished its final frame.

So what now for Bud and Marie? Bud was 65 last Wednesday. Marie was 65 last October. Both are thus old enough to retire — and that's exactly what they have in mind.

"We've made no plans," he said, "and we aren't in any hurry to make any."

The new occupant, Barnett, was a member of the Columbus Police Division for 22 years before going into the barber and beauty supply business.

FISH TALES — Two Columbus keglers will receive special awards during this year's American Bowling Congress tournament in St. Louis. One is **Dr. Joel Bernhard,** a past president of the ABC and long prominent in city and state bowling affairs. He'll be awarded a plaque for 40 years of service. The other recipient will be **Roger Holstein,** who rates a 25-year ABC chevron and a lifetime pass . . . **Roy Buckley** of Columbus received five first-team votes for *Bowling Magazine's* all-American team of 1977. He made honorable mention . . . More than 40,000 women entered the Women's International Bowling Congress tournament this year in Miami. It starts April 6. The prize fund totals $647,274 . . . Bobb Chevrolet will sponsor this year's annual Big Brothers' bowling clinic. The event is scheduled next Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. at Riverview Recreation. Members of the Area V Council of the Big Brother Association will coordinate clinic activities.



Bud And Marie Davidson Take Sentimental View Of Dismantled Clinton Lanes Dispatch Photo by Fred Shannon

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